

## KELP Receives 8th Annual CF Industries National Watershed Award

*By Donald D. Snethen, P.E.  
Chief, Watershed Management Section*

Community groups in Kansas, Virginia, and Washington state, and General Motors have been selected to receive the eighth annual CF Industries National Watershed Award presented by The Conservation Fund. The award recognizes model programs that protect local watersheds.

The Kansas Environmental Leadership Program is the third Kansas project to win this award. The Cheney Watershed Project and the Hillsdale Water Project won this award in previous years.

“CF Industries is pleased to recognize the 2003 award winners. The recipients reflect the spectrum of water quality issues we face today and the ingenuity and work ethic that will lead the way in restoring our nation’s watersheds,” said CF Industries’ President Stephen R. Wilson. “The quality of the programs produced by these groups will allow other watershed groups to implement proven practices.”



The Kansas Environmental Leadership Program (KELP) conceived jointly by the Bureau of Water within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and Kansas State University Research and Extension. The program was established to provide individuals interested in Kansas' water with training in the principles of water resources, especially water quality, and leadership principles. KDHE provided financial assistance through an EPA Section 319 non-point source pollution control grant to develop the pilot test, the program, and curriculum. KDHE continues to provide financial assistance to support the operation of the program. Each year up to 25 applicants are selected for the program. Participants attend five 2½-day sessions at Hays, Topeka, southeast Kansas, Garden City, and Hutchinson. Each location is selected to highlight the unique water resources and issues of that location and actions local leaders have taken to address these issues. For example the Hays session focuses on the Hays wellhead protection plan and water conservation. At each session individuals with expertise in leadership give presentations and lead the participants through exercises designed to illustrate different leadership tools and techniques.

Don Snethen, chief, Watershed Management Section, Bureau of Water, has had a modest affiliation with three of the Kansas award recipients. Snethen thinks Kansas is the only state to have received three awards during the eight-year history of the program.

For additional information check out our web site:  
[http://www.cfindustries.com/commrelations/watershed/winners\\_2003.htm](http://www.cfindustries.com/commrelations/watershed/winners_2003.htm)